

Un-Americans Threaten Stevens With Reprisals

By Louise Mitchell

The House Un-American Committee hearings which opened here yesterday in the Federal Court House in an atmosphere of a Hollywood extravaganza turned into a Grade B flopperoo when Alexander Stevens, who faces deportation, refused to answer all questions on the ground that they would incriminate him.

Threats of reprisals by members of the subcommittee through perjury proceedings and recommendations of contempt citation did not intimidate Stevens who steadfastly asserted his rights in accordance with the Constitution's Fifth Amendment.

The dramatic high point of the hearing, according to the press, was to have been the confrontation of Stevens and Whittaker Chambers, the committee's stoolpigeon. But it went poof.

Flashbulbs stopped flashing, the reporters stopped scribbling and a hushed silence fell in Room, 406 of the court house when a side door opened and Chambers appeared.

A small pudgy man with effeminate manners and shifty colorless eyes entered the room and stared at the ceiling.

Robert Stripling, committee investigator, demanded of Stevens whether he knew Chambers. Stevens calmly refused to answer on the ground that it would incriminate him. All other questions

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UTES FOR EUGENE MORSE TO BE HELD THIS MORNING

Funeral services will be held today (Tuesday) for Eugene Morse, 39, a field organizer for the Communist Party and a veteran of the war in Spain and of World War II. The services will be held at Gramercy Funeral Parlor, 2d Ave. and 10th St. at 11:30 a. m.

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln brigade yesterday called on all Lincoln vets to attend the services for Morse.

The National Committee of the Communist Party yesterday also expressed its sorrow over Morse's death.

"It was with deep grief," said the Communist Party statement, "that we learned of the death of Eugene Morse.

"Gene, as he was known to his countless friends, was first of all a Communist. A fearless fighter in two wars, he fought fascism in

Spain and on the battlefields of Europe in World War II.

EARLY STRUGGLES

"Gene grew up in New York. As a youth he was a leader in the 1933 taxi strike. That strike, and the Hoover unemployment of the 1930's, helped him to understand the need for his place in the Communist Party.

"From the time he first joined the Party, Gene asked for full-time work in the cause in which he believed. A student of Marxism, and a tireless worker, he soon was section organizer, a district organizer before the war, and, when mustered out, of the army, a field organizer in the South.

"We extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to his many friends and his family who have lost in him a staunch fighter for the workingclass."

UN-AMERICANS THREATEN STEVENS WITH REPRISALS

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were answered in the same way to the obvious annoyance of the nattily-dressed Rep. Richard Nixon (R-Cal) and cold-eyed Rep. John McDowell (R-Pa), committee members present at the "spy" hunt.

Chambers' a senior editor of Time magazine, later spun a hopped-up story about a J. Peters whom he claimed was Stevens. According to Chambers Stevens was head of an "underground espionage ring" which operated in Washington during the 1930's. Chambers unfolded a fantastic tale in which he, Chambers, obtained a \$6,000-a-year job within 24 hours back in 1938 or 1939 on the Federal Research project through the alleged assistance of Abraham G. Silverman and Irving Kaplan, whom Chambers declared were Communists. Chambers said he held the job for two months while on the payroll of the Communists. He took the job, he asserted, in order to "regain his identity," resume his real name and break with the Communists.

BERLE TO TESTIFY

The name of A. A. Berle, former Assistant Secretary of State and now state chairman of the Liberal Party, figured in the hearings. He will appear before the committee in executive session. Rep. McDowell asserted that Berle, violent anti-Communist, would be questioned on Chambers' testimony that Chambers said he was accompanied by Isaac Don Levinne, anti-Communist writer, who went along with him on his trip to the White House to vouch for his character.

The committee and the Department of Immigration and Naturalization vied for top billing yesterday in their persecution of Stevens. Immigration officials started off in the morning by holding a deportation hearing at 70 Columbus Ave., but the first order of business was service of a subpoena on Stevens by Stephen Birmingham, an investigator for the House Committee. The subpoena was issued to J. Stevens although the Immigration arrest warrant names Alexander Stevens.

Stevens' attorney Carol King and Stevens refused throughout the Immigration hearing to participate because it was an "illegal action." In answer to all questions from the presiding inspector, Ralph Farb, Miss King replied, "We are not participating in this hearing."

CHARGES HEARING ILLEGAL

Miss King challenged the deportation hearing on the ground that it was a subterfuge for the sole purpose of putting Stevens in a position where he would accept the House Committee's subpoena. She declared that the hearing was in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act of 1946 which forbids the Department from acting as both examiner and jury in deportation cases. Her motion was overruled by Farb.

EXTENDED SUBPENA

As the Immigration hearing opened, Stevens was referred to as J. Peters by Farb but Miss King objected strongly. He was served a formal warrant of arrest in the name of Alexander Stevens. The Immigration hearing adjourned at noon in order to permit Stevens and his attorney time to appear before the House Committee hearing at 1 p.m. After Stevens re-

fused to answer the questions of the House Committee, his subpoena was extended and he went to Immigration offices again "for a continuation of that hearing."

As he was dismissed by the House Committee, Stripling demanded that Stevens be ready to be called at any time, claiming his whereabouts had been unknown to the committee for a year. Miss King sharply denied this saying that the committee never attempted to contact him.

Main witness at the Immigration hearing was Sebastian F. Latona, an FBI fingerprint specialist, who said that fingerprints obtained from Stevens when he was arrested for deportation proceedings Oct. 8, 1947, were the same as those obtained several years ago on an Alien Registration form. He, therefore, concluded that they both belonged to Stevens.

The only two House Committee questions which Stevens answered were that he knew Earl Browder, expelled Communist leader, and that he had never done anything which would injure the security of the United States. He stated that he arrived in this country in 1924 and not in 1932 as the Immigration Department maintains. He said he was born in Cop, Czechoslovakia.

Chambers' story alleged that he met Stevens in 1928 in the offices of the Daily Worker and that he was introduced to Stevens by Max Bedacht, formerly associated with the International Workers Order. He said that he worked with Stevens as "an underground spy" and that the "above-ground" Communists did not know of his activities. He again named Alger Hiss and Gregory Silvermaster in his testimony.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Rep. McDowell said the next session of the committee would be switched to Washington.



MANHUNT ENDS as one of three felons who made a daylight escape from Utah State Prison is rounded up near Salt Lake City by Bey Smart, a prison guard. A second fugitive also was caught. The third was still being sought.